

DIARY

MARCH

AADR/CADR Annual Meeting

Date: 3-6 March 2010
Venue: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington DC
www.aadronline.org

FGDP(UK) 2010 Pendlebury Lecture

Date: Friday 5 March 2010
Venue: The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS), London
www.fgdp.org.uk

World of Health IT Conference and Exhibition

Date: 15-18 March 2010
Venue: The Convention Centre, CCB, Barcelona
www.worldofhealthit.org

UCL Eastman Dental Institute CPD Conference

Date: 19 March 2010
Venue: London
www.eastman.ucl.ac.uk

The Dentistry Show

Date: 19-20 March 2010
Venue: NEC Birmingham
www.thedentistryshow.co.uk

BDA clinical expert series: Innovations in aesthetic dentistry

Date: 26 March 2010
Venue: London

APRIL

BDA Seminar – Growing your practice in challenging times

Date: 23 April 2010
Venue: Leeds Marriott Hotel, Leeds

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS FLUORIDATED TOOTHPASTE USE IN CHILDREN

Parents should use toothpastes that contain fluoride with a minimum concentration of 1,000 parts per million (ppm) to prevent tooth decay in their children, according to a new study.

Researchers for the Cochrane Oral Health Group, based at the School of Dentistry, The University of Manchester, have previously shown that fluoride toothpastes reduce dental decay by 24% on average compared to non-fluoride products. Now the authors, in a second related study, suggest that parents concerned about the risk of fluorosis should consult their dentist to discuss the benefits and risks.

The research looked at 79 trials on 73,000 children worldwide to examine the effect of different children's toothpastes and found that those with fluoride concentrations less than 1,000 parts per million were only as effective as non-fluoride toothpastes at preventing tooth decay. Children's toothpastes range from 100 ppm to 1,400 ppm fluoride concentration.

The study suggests that brushing a child's teeth with a toothpaste containing fluoride before the age of 12 months may be associated with an increased risk of developing mild fluorosis. Swallowing large amounts of toothpaste may still cause fluorosis in children up to the

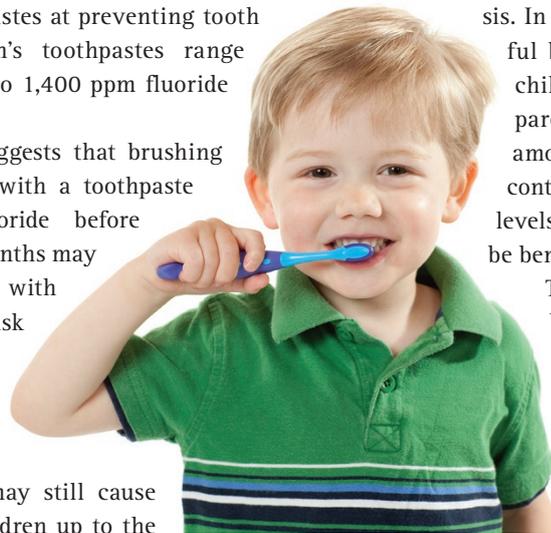
age of six years when the permanent teeth are still developing, but using a small amount, carefully, will reduce these risks. After the age of six years, the teeth are fully developed and toothpaste can be used without fear of fluorosis.

Dr Anne-Marie Glenny, an author on the review, said, 'It is very confusing for parents to know how to strike the right balance, which is not helped by the fact that different companies use different concentrations of fluoride in their toothpastes aimed at children. From a public health point of view, the risk of tooth decay and its consequences such as pain and extractions is greater than the small risk of fluorosis. Children would have to swallow a lot of toothpaste over a long period of time to get the severe brown mottling on the teeth, as opposed to the more typical mild white patches.'

She added that for children that are considered to be at a high risk of tooth decay by their dentist, the benefit to health of preventing decay is likely to outweigh the risk of fluorosis.

In such cases, careful brushing of their children's teeth by parents with a small amount of toothpaste containing higher levels of fluoride would be beneficial.

The review will be published in the Cochrane Library, which is available on the Cochrane website: www.cochrane.org.



NEW ANNUAL PRIZE FOR POETRY AND MEDICINE

A new annual international prize for poetry and medicine has recently been launched.

The 2010 Hippocrates Prize, which is being organised by Professor Donald Singer from the University of Warwick's medical school and Michael Hulse, an international poet on the University's Writing Programme, will

feature work interpreting in the widest sense. Themes could therefore include health and poetry, the impact of health and disease on the poet, the nature of the body and anatomy, the history, evolution and future of medical science, the nature and experience of tests, the experience of doctors, nurses and other staff in hospitals and in the community, and the experience of patients, families, friends and carers in these situations.

Awards will be announced at an International Poetry and Medicine Symposium at the University of Warwick on 10 April this year, with Australian poet Peter Goldsworthy as keynote speaker.

There is an open category for any UK or international member of the public and a separate award for current or former NHS-related staff and students, both with a £5,000 first prize. For further details visit www.hippocrates-poetry.org.